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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives
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Descriptive Inventory

MSS 284 MAGRUDER-CLYSDALE Collection

2 boxes. 25 folders. 345 items. 1949-1964. Originals, photographs.

2009.4.99

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Reverend Fred Ernest Clysdale (b. 1884) married Florence K. Mills, the daughter of John Mills and Sarah Ann Brigham, on 10 November 1914 in Blyth, Huron County, Ontario, Canada. They had two daughters, Evelyn Clysdale and Edith Clysdale.

Edith Clysdale was born on 17 November 1915 in Wingham, Ontario. She received degrees from the University of Toronto (1938) and Yale University (1940), and received an M.A. and Ph.D. (1943) from Columbia University. In addition to teaching at the University of Louisville and Indiana University, she was the author of several books, including *A Historical Study of the Educational Agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention, 1845-1945* and *American Dialectics in Action: Twentieth Century Questions and Answers About Trends and Patterns That Shape Our Lives*. She married N. Burnett Magruder in 1939.

N. Burnett Magruder, the son of Reverend and Mrs. G. N. Magruder, was born 15 August 1914 in Higbee, Missouri. He received a degree in 1936 from William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri, a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Yale University in 1939, a Master of Arts degree from Columbia University, and a Th.D. (1953) from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. During the period covered by this collection, he served as assistant secretary of the Louisville Area Council of Churches, an ecumenical organization of Protestant churches, and as pastor of Covenant Baptist Church in Louisville. He later served as director of the Christian Heritage Center in Louisville. He died on 15 July 2005.

Both Burnett and Edith Magruder were political and theological conservatives and critics of liberal Protestantism. As assistant secretary of the Louisville Area Council of Churches, Burnett Magruder worked to increase the influence of Southern Baptists and other conservative churches in the council. In 1960, he created controversy and calls for his resignation from the Council when his membership in the John Birch Society was disclosed. While Burnett remained a Baptist, Edith's beliefs drove her away from the Baptist Church and seemed to cause her difficulty in supporting any particular denomination. Under the professional name of "Judith Brigham," Edith worked to establish herself in the field of Christian psychotherapy and counselling. She also hosted a radio broadcast, "Twentieth Century Questions," on a St. Thomas, Ontario radio station and on station WAKY in Louisville, Kentucky.

COLLECTION NOTE

The collection consists almost entirely of correspondence among Burnett Magruder, his wife Edith Magruder, Edith's parents, Fred Clysdale and Florence Clysdale, and Edith's sister, Evelyn, who married Claud Turner in 1942. Fred and Florence Clysdale write mostly from London, Ontario, where they purchased a house in 1950, or from Grand Bend, Ontario, where they owned a cottage. Edith and Burnett lived in Louisville, Kentucky, but during the period covered by this collection Edith spent much of her time in Grand Bend, where she used her parents' cottage as a place to write and develop her program of Christian psychotherapy.

With the exception of a single letter from Edith Magruder to Burnett Magruder (Folder 2), Box 1 consists entirely of Burnett Magruder's letters to Edith Magruder from 1950-1956. Beginning in 1953, these letters address her by her adopted professional name of Judith Brigham. Much of this correspondence concerns their mutual efforts to gain a foothold for her ideas in the United States, either by way of an academic appointment or an independent professional practice. Burnett coordinates the publication of her writing in the *Harvester*, edited by Louisville evangelist A. D. Muse, and the distribution of a second printing of her book, *A Historical Study of the Educational Agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention*. He reports on his activities, including his work on his dissertation, and on various controversies in the Louisville Protestant community. The correspondence also deals with personal and family matters between a couple conducting a "long-distance" marriage.

Box 2 contains Edith Magruder's letters to her parents, Fred and Florence Clysdale (Folder 3), and to her sister Evelyn (Folder 9), written mostly in the early 1950s. Also in Box 2 are letters to Edith and Burnett Magruder from Fred and Florence Clysdale from 1949-1955 (Folders 4-7), from Evelyn (Clysdale) Turner (Folder 10), and from miscellaneous, primarily non-family correspondents (Folders 1-2). Fred and Florence Clysdale's letters to Edith and Burnett Magruder contain mostly news of their activities, including Fred's pastoral work as a semi-retired minister, and their care of an elderly relative suffering from Alzheimer's disease; the Clysdales also provide news of family and friends in Canada. From time to time, they forwarded to the Magruders letters received from other family members; these remain attached to their letters. Newspaper clippings enclosed with the Clysdales' letters have been photocopied on acid-free paper and the originals discarded.

Also in Box 2 are letters to Fred and Florence Clysdale from their daughter Evelyn Turner (Folder 11) and from miscellaneous correspondents (Folder 8). Finally, Box 2 contains some miscellaneous materials relating to Florence Clysdale (Folder 13); photographs of the Clysdales' home in London, Ontario (Folder 14); photographs of Octon Grange in Yorkshire, United Kingdom, which relate to Brigham family ancestry (Folder 12); and a letter from L. E. Johnson to his parents, whose relation to this family is unknown (Folder 15).

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	N. Burnett and Edith Magruder Correspondence	1950-1956	130 items
Folder 1	Inventory and biographical information		3 items

Folder 2	Edith C. Magruder – Letter to N. Burnett Magruder	1950	1 item
Folder 3	N. Burnett Magruder – Letters to Edith C. Magruder	1950-1952	11 items
Folder 4	N. Burnett Magruder – Letters to Edith C. Magruder	Sept. 1953- Dec. 1953	15 items
Folder 5	N. Burnett Magruder – Letters to Judith Bringham (Edith C. Magruder)	Oct. 1953- June 1954	22 items
Folder 6	N. Burnett Magruder – Letters to Judith Bringham (Edith C. Magruder)	July 1954- Dec. 1954	16 items
Folder 7	N. Burnett Magruder – Letters to Judith Bringham (Edith C. Magruder)	Jan. 1955- May 1955	14 items
Folder 8	N. Burnett Magruder – Letters to Judith Bringham (Edith C. Magruder)	June 1955- Dec. 1955	22 items
Folder 9	N. Burnett Magruder – Letters to Judith Bringham (Edith C. Magruder)	1956	23 items
Folder 10	N. Burnett Magruder – Letters to Judith Bringham (Edith C. Magruder)	n.d.	3 items
BOX 2	Magruder-Clysdale Correspondence; Miscellaneous	1949-1964	215 items
Folder 1	Edith C. and N. Burnett Magruder – Miscellaneous incoming letters	1949-1952	39 items
Folder 2	Edith C. Magruder – Miscellaneous incoming letters	1953	7 items
Folder 3	Edith C. Magruder – Letters to Fred E. and Florence K. Clysdale	1950-1953, 1958	27 items
Folder 4	Fred E. and Florence K. Clysdale – Letters to N. Burnett and Edith C. Magruder	1949-1951	19 items
Folder 5	Fred E. and Florence K. Clysdale – Letters to N. Burnett and Edith C. Magruder	1952	23 items

Folder 6	Fred E. and Florence K. Clysdale – Letters to N. Burnett and Edith C. Magruder	1953	30 items
Folder 7	Fred E. and Florence K. Clysdale – Letters to N. Burnett and Edith C. Magruder	1954-1955, n.d.	38 items
Folder 8	Fred E. and Florence K. Clysdale – Miscellaneous incoming letters	1964	2 items
Folder 9	Edith C. Magruder – Letter to Evelyn (Clysdale) Turner	1951	1 item
Folder 10	Evelyn (Clysdale) Turner – Letters to Edith C. Magruder	1951-1953	5 items
Folder 11	Evelyn (Clysdale) Turner – Letters to Fred E. and Florence K. Clysdale	1964, n.d.	4 items
Folder 12	N. Burnett and Edith C. Magruder – Photographs of Octon Grange (Yorkshire, UK)	n.d.	9 items
Folder 13	Florence K. Clysdale – Miscellaneous clippings, Alma College materials	1948, 1957, n.d.	4 items
Folder 14	Fred E. and Florence K. Clysdale – Photos of 115 Garfield Avenue, London, Ontario	n.d.	6 items
Folder 15	L. E. (Gene) Johnson – Letter to Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Johnson	1957	1 item

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS MAGRUDER-CLYSDALE Collection 1949-1964
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Correspondence of the Magruder and Clysdale families of Louisville, Kentucky, London, Ontario and Grand Bend, Ontario. The correspondence covers family matters and the progress of the Magruders' professional work and writing on Protestant theology and social issues. Includes photographs relating to the Clysdale and a related family, the Brighams.

2 boxes. 25 folders. 345 items. Originals, photographs.

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SEE AND SEE ALSO

Brigham, Judith

See:

Magruder, Edith (Clysdale)

Louisville Council of Churches

See also:

Louisville Area Council of Churches

Louisville Area Council of Churches

See also:

Louisville Council of Churches

Niedermeier/Jeffrey 11/24/2009